

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 20045 301034Z

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TAGS: ECA, CCON, TECH

SUBJ: AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON

- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: CONCLUSION

REF: (A) CAIRO 19919, (B) CAIRO 20002, (C) CAIRO 19988

1. AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING CONCLUDED ITS WORK SEPTEMBER 29 BY ADOPTING REPORT OF THE MEETING. (AS WITH ALL OTHER SUBSTANTIVE WORK ACCOMPLISHED AT THE MEETING, THIS TOO HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE DRAFT REGIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY THE ECA SECRETARIAT.) MEETING ALSO ADOPTED A REVISION OF CHAPTER VI OF THE SECRETARIAT DRAFT (PROGRAM OF ACTION) WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WORKING GROUP. THE LATTER UNDERTAKING, WHILE CONSUMING MOST OF THE TIME AVAILABLE AND THE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS LIMITED THEMSELVES TO ELABORATING FURTHER UPON THE PROGRAM OF ACTION SUGGESTED BY THE ECA SECRETARIAT BUT WITHOUT INTRODUCING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OR NEW DEPARTURES. ALL DOCUMENTS BEING

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 20045 301034Z

HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON.

2. IN FACT, THE TIME AVAILABLE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE SORT OF DETAILED REVIEW THE HUNDRED-ODD PAGES OF THE SECRETARIAT DRAFT WARRANTED IF IT WAS TO BE MADE THE PRODUCT OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AND A NUMBER OF MEMBERS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE DRAFT HAD ONLY BECOME AVAILABLE AT THE OUT-

SET OF THE MEETING, THUS PRECLUDING PRIOR STUDY IN CAPITALS. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS THAT FURTHER EXAMINATION AND ELABORATION WAS REQUIRED, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS EMPOWERED TO CONTINUE ITS COLLABORATION WITH THE ECA SECRETARIAT (SEE SEPTEL ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED). MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ARE: CHAD, EGYPT, KENYA, LESOTHO, NIGER AND SUDAN.

3. THIS DEVICE OF CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS APPEARED TO BE WELCOMED ESPECIALLY BY THE ECA SECRETARIAT WHICH WERE ANXIOUS NOT TO BE HELD SOLELY ACCOUNTABLE THEMSELVES FOR THE REGIONAL DOCUMENTATION PLACED BEFORE THE THIRD UNCSTD PREPCOMM. NEWLY APPOINTED UN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DADZIE PUT IN A BRIEF APPEARANCE AT THE MEETING ON AUGUST 28, EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO SUPERVISE PREPARATIONS FOR UNCSTD AND TO OVERSEE THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT DURING THE ABSENCE OF DA COSTA. DADZIE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE NOW OF MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF UNCSTD PREPARATIONS AND, PROBABLY REFLECTING SIMILAR CONCERNS ON THE PART OF THE UN SECRETARIAT AT THIS JUNCTURE, RECALLED THAT THE TASK OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IS ESSENTIALLY RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS.

4. SEPTEL REPORTS ON FIVE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CLOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 20045 301034Z

OF THE MEETING, ALL BY ACCLAMATION AND ALL WITH MINIMUM PLENARY DISCUSSION OR REVISION. AS SEPTEL POINTS OUT, TWO OF THESE MAY WARRANT SPECIAL ATTENTION. MATTHEWS

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